News release

Record snowfall in Scotland

3 March 2006

Some of the lower levels of Scotland have had record-breaking amounts of snow over the last few days.

So far Aberdeen has had 26 cm (almost a foot) of snow - the most for March since snowfall records at the airport began in 1957. The snow has caused widespread travel disruption and numerous schools closures - even the Met Office in Aberdeen arranged for staff to stay in overnight accommodation.

Aberdeen forecaster Tom Masson, said: "This is very significant snowfall for this time of the year and obviously it is causing a lot of disruption. We will be closely watching the weather over the next few days as there are more wintry conditions expected."

Parts of northern Scotland also saw overnight temperatures dropping to -15.3 °C - colder than Moscow (-10 °C) and Oslo (-14 °C). The lowest March temperature recorded in Scotland is -22.8 °C at Logie Coldstone in 1958.

Edinburgh and south-east Scotland, which have so far avoided the worst of the snow, are forecast to have heavy snow showers today which could give falls of up to 10 cm over higher ground. Further snow showers are forecast for parts of north Wales and Lancashire later Friday afternoon and evening, affecting other parts of Wales and south-west England overnight.

The wintry weather will continue throughout the weekend, with some areas seeing further snow and widespread overnight frosts.

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For updated information on the road and rail network visit the Highways Agency (England), Traffic Scotland, Traffic Wales, TrafficWatch (Northern Ireland) and National Rail Enquiries

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